

SELBY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

AND
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1968



SELBY:
E. M. RIMMINGTON & CO., 9 FINKLE STREET
1969

SELBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman: Councillor G. Burrans.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor J. T. Kitchen.

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. L. M. Staniland.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor G. Burrans.

Medical Officer of Health:

S. KENNAUGH APPLETON
S.B.St.J., M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

MURIEL J. LOWE
M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Public Health Inspector:

NORMAN BUCKLE
D.P.A., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk:

Miss MARGARET JACKSON

To The Chairman and Members of the Selby Urban District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my twenty-second Annual Report on the health of the Urban District, and the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1968.

VITAL STATISTICS.

214 live births were registered, an increase of 22, giving a Birth Rate of 19.1 per thousand population (Adjusted Birth Rate 19.9). The County aggregate rate for Urban Districts was 17.5 and for England and Wales 16.9. Three stillbirths occurred.

141 deaths occurred, giving a Crude Death Rate of 12.6 (Adjusted Death Rate 12.2). The aggregate County rate was 12.3 and the rate for England and Wales 11.9. Births exceeded deaths by 73.

3 infants died under the age of one year, giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 14.0. The County rate was 19.7 and the National rate was 18.3.

No maternal death has occurred for fourteen years, in fact there has been only one maternal death in the last twenty-two years.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

211 cases of infectious disease were notified during the year, of which 199 were measles. In anticipation of the expected bi-yearly epidemic of measles in the early winter the Department of Health decided on a crash programme of vaccination by the one injection technique to be completed by the autumn. Vaccine became available in increasing quantity from May onwards. However, during June and July there was a moderate outbreak of measles in the District so that many children fell victims to the disease before they could be protected. Others, having avoided infection, were considered at least by their parents to be immune, so the response to the campaign was sluggish. The expected winter epidemic did not occur. Although vaccination must have contributed to this result the widespread epidemics of measles throughout the County tended to obscure the picture. Writing in 1969, it is pleasing to note that parents looking ahead to the risk of further epidemics of measles are applying for their children to be vaccinated. It is frustrating that at the moment vaccine is in short supply due to the failure of one source of supply.

The protection of children in their fourteenth year against tuberculosis with B.C.G. vaccine has been in operation since 1955. This procedure, in conjunction with the vaccination of susceptible contacts of actual cases, makes a valuable contribution to the control of this disease. During 1968 it was decided that it would be advantageous to protect children at an earlier age. It is now the policy to test and, if necessary, vaccinate children as soon as possible after entry to senior school, that is, in their twelfth year. I believe that there is a certain amount of undetected tuberculosis amongst elderly persons with chronic coughs, and the finding in an adjacent district of the disease in a school child and in its grandparent emphasises the danger. All persons with chronic coughs owe it to the community and themselves to be X-rayed regularly. To facilitate this the mobile radiography unit stands at the Selby Baths for half-an-hour on the first and third Tuesday mornings in the month. It would be a good thing if all adults, particularly those living or working amongst children, however well they feel, would make use of this service once every two years.

PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASES) REGULATIONS, 1968.

During the year these Regulations came into operation. They consolidate into one document all existing regulations relating to the notification and

prevention of infectious disease. Three diseases—leptospirosis, tetanus and yellow fever—have been added to the list, and six diseases—acute primary pneumonia, acute influenzal pneumonia, acute rheumatism, erysipelas, membranous croup and puerperal pyrexia—have been deleted.

The infectious diseases now to be notified to the medical officer of health are:—

Acute encephalitis	Measles
Acute meningitis	Ophthalmia neonatorum
Acute poliomyelitis	Paratyphoid fever
Anthrax	Plague
Cholera	Relapsing fever
Diphtheria	Scarlet fever
Dysentery	Smallpox
(amoebic or bacillary)	Tetanus
Food poisoning	Tuberculosis
Infective jaundice	Typhoid fever
Leprosy	Typhus
Leptospirosis	Whooping cough
Malaria	Yellow fever

CERVICAL CYTOLOGY.

During the year 107 women had the cancer smear test. One case revealed abnormal cells. There must still be a lot of women between the ages of 21 and 60 years who are at risk and have not been tested. It is not the number of pregnancies that constitutes the risk factor, although this figure can be a rough guide. The determining factor seems to be the degree of sexual experience, therefore every woman must decide for herself to what extent she is at risk.

FAMILY PLANNING.

Methods of limiting the size of the family, more or less unreliable, have been practised by many couples for thousands of years. Much improved methods have become available within the last forty years, and the arrival of "the pill" is a great step forward towards the perfect contraceptive. Expert advice about the most suitable method is essential, and over the years the Family Planning Association has opened an increasing number of clinics to meet this need. During 1968 I was able to get Selby town added to the Association's waiting list. At the time of writing the Association is prepared to open a clinic in Selby as soon as trained personnel are available, and the County Council has approved the use of the County Clinic. I expect that this service for family planning and pre-marital advice will be in operation early in 1970.

MENTAL MEALTH.

The much needed extensions at the Rawcliffe Training Centre, to which I referred in my last report, have actually been started and will become functional in 1970. The facilities for the care and training of the severely subnormals will be greatly enhanced. An additional room has been added to the Snaith Day Centre, and this provides better working conditions for those convalescing from mental illness.

Finally, I record my thanks for the continued support of the Members and Officers of the Council, the loyal service of the Public Health staffs, and the help given by the Voluntary Committee at the Clinic and the W.R.V.S.

I remain, Your obedient servant,

S. KENNAUGH APPLETON,

September 1969.

Medical Officer of Health.

VALEDICTION

At the time of writing this 1968 Report I am retained in office as your M.O.H. and Divisional Medical Officer for a period of six months. Although I expect to be responsible for your public health services for the whole of 1969, and perhaps longer, it is reasonable to assume that the next annual report will be written and presented by my successor. This Report, therefore, should be the last one I present, so I take the opportunity to put together a summary of my stewardship.

By the time I retire I shall have had the honour and privilege to have served the District for well over 22 years; a record surpassed of course by my immediate predecessor but unlikely to be equalled in the uncertain future. I took up my appointment with the four constituent authorities on 3rd November, 1947, with particular responsibility for organising a Divisional Health Service, to come into operation under the National Health Service Act, 1946, in the following July. A new era in public health began on the appointed day, 5th July, 1948, has matured over a generation, and might well be coming to an end with the proposals for amalgamation in the near future and the Redcliffe-Maud reorganisation of local government a possibility in the not so distant future. The Health Division started in quite a small way at a desk in the Goole clinic with a senior clerk and two typists. Rented premises over a shop were secured before the appointed day and five years later the present office was taken over. The rapid build-up of existing services and the innovation of new services had to be met by a rapid increase in personnel. The Divisional establishment, which has now been relatively static for several years, is made up as follows: 1 Divisional M.O.H., 2 Departmental M.O.s, 3 part-time consultants, 26 nurses, 12 mental health officers and training centre staff, and 10 clerical staff.

The County maternity, child welfare and school health services were already established in Selby but were in need of considerable expansion. Much good work was done under poor working conditions in unsatisfactory premises for far too many years, simply because of the difficulty of finding a central site. However, the problem was finally solved, and a fine purpose-built health and dental clinic opened in 1961. To the traditional services have been added mothercraft and relaxation classes, consultant eye-testing sessions, child guidance service, mothers' club, speech therapy (intermittently), and in the past but no longer necessary, remedial physiotherapy and U-V ray therapy. More recently, cancer smear tests are done regularly, and in the not too distant future family planning should arrive. With experience a much enhanced educational health service has been built up. Exhibitions, films and talks have been put on in the clinic, and health talks and films have a place in the schools. Mass radiography became available to the public in annual or bi-annual campaigns, which have now been replaced by short twice-monthly visits of the unit to Selby, with occasional sessions in industrial plants. The rationalisation of the mental health services necessitated the building of a Training Centre for the severely subnormal, now in the process of being enlarged, and a Day Social Centre for those convalescing from mental illness. Almost from the beginning of the Divisional scheme the Home Help Service has been steadily expanded. Starting with the equivalent of ten full-time helps in 1950 the service now employs the equivalent of 39 helps, and more can be used when the Government restriction is lifted. Chiropody for the elderly and handicapped of Selby has been in operation since 1965 and there is a steadily increasing demand. The medical examination for student applicants for admission to university, training college or teaching post has become quite an onerous duty. Within the Division almost 1,900 examinations have been carried out, mainly in the last twelve years.

So much for the comprehensive scope of the Divisional health services operating in Selby and district. What about some of the results?

I note from my early reports that I was most concerned about three conditions—head lice infestation, poliomyelitis and tuberculosis. In 1951 about 25% of school children had infested heads. Now, after years of regular head inspections, treatment, health education, aided I feel by the greater pride boys as well as girls take in their hair, the problem of head lice is under control, and must be kept so by vigilance. The possibility of a few cases of acute anterior poliomyelitis in the late summer of most years caused real concern. Vaccination has virtually eliminated this dread disease, although it did take the death of a national footballer to stimulate full public response. Twenty years ago deaths from tuberculosis were declining but new cases were being notified at the rate of eleven a year. The elimination of tuberculosis in cattle, the heat treatment of milk, better food and housing and B.C.G. vaccination have reduced the incidence of new cases to one or two a year. I feel sure there is still some hidden, and therefore dangerous, tuberculosis about. The delicate patient with a persistent cough and the elderly bronchitic should be suspect until proved not to be euberculous.

The era will be best remembered for the rapid progress in the control of infectious diseases by immunisation. In 1948 protection was available only against smallpox and diphtheria and, for those going abroad, typhoid fever and cholera. Now immunisation against whooping cough, tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, tetanus, measles and, for those going abroad, yellow fever, is commonplace. To be born into an affluent and well-protected society is an asset of recent origin which is already being taken for granted. It has been a privilege to have inaugurated the various immunisation campaigns and to have elicited the public response which is so necessary for success. The parents of Selby and district are to be congratulated on the high degree of protection they have obtained for their children.

I make only brief reference to the equally important progress in environmental public health during this era under the persevering guidance previously of Mr. W. Little and now under Mr. N. Buckle. It has been pleasing to see the welcome appearance of new housing estates and the disappearance of the worst slum property, but much sub-standard property remains. Positive progress has been made for cleaner air, cleaner and safer food, sewage disposal, pest control, better working conditions in shops and offices, pest control, etc. I can say with confidence that Selby town and district is a healthier, safer and pleasanter place in which to live than it was 22 years ago. There is still room, however, for further improvement, and some unfinished tasks to complete. My successor will find the public health of Selby in good shape, which will give him a firm foundation for further achievement whatever the new set-up may be.

Not unnaturally much of the success of the Service is due to the loyalty, enthusiasm and devotion to duty of a large number of past and present officers. I set out, with some success I believe, to be the captain of a team, and although many of the players have changed, the team spirit remains strong and I hope will not be dissipated in any pending reorganisation. It would be difficult, and possibly invidious, to try to name all who have made valuable contributions to this team effort. Certain officers, however, who have been in the team for twenty years or more, and are still with me, deserve mention. Mr. Roy Towell, Senior Clerk, who had several years' experience in the County Health Department before joining me 22 years ago to form the Division; Dr. Eileen M. R. Bell-Syer, for 22 years my Departmental M.O., whose efficiency and kindly approach has endeared her to the staff and mothers of Selby; Miss Aley Ridsdale, Senior Health Visitor, still serving the community of Selby and district as "guide, philosopher and

friend" for almost 22 years; Mrs. A. Sutherland, still giving valuable assistance as relief health visitor and clinic nurse; Mr. Geoffrey N. Nowill, Deputy Senior Clerk, 21½ years, and Miss Shirley L. Bramham, School Health Clerk 21 years, keep firm control on important sections of divisional administration. I am particularly grateful to my Deputy M.O.H., Dr. Muriel J. Lowe, for her advice, assistance and support for 19 years. All these officers, and others unnamed but appreciated, will take forward into whatever the future may hold, a vast accumulation of experience and expertise.

Finally I must refer to the Selby Urban District Council and its officers. I shall be the last of the chief officers of 1947 to leave the scene, and without exception my relations with past and present chief officers have been most cordial. I believe I am right in recording that the only member of the 1947/48 Council still serving is Councillor C. Coultish. Over the years I have found the members of the General Purposes Committee most considerate, interested and helpful, and above all willing to let me get on with the job. My willingness to forego for a time the undoubted attractions of retirement has been largely influenced by the harmonious relations I have had with the members and officers of the Council and the happy atmosphere of the public health department. I am glad I was appointed to the Urban District and that, before my retirement, I have had the privilege of joining in the unique celebrations of Selby's fame.

To finish on a lighter note, which augurs well for the future but for which I can take no personal credit, the population of Selby is almost 1,000 more than when I came 22 years ago.

GENERAL STATISTICS, 1968

Area of Urban District	...	...	3,883 acres
Population (mid 1968)	...	...	11,210
Number of Houses	...	...	3,988
Rateable Value	...	...	£394,635 (Apr.1969)
Product of Penny Rate (estimated)			£1,570 (Apr.1969)

VITAL STATISTICS

	SELBY U.D.	Aggre- gate West Riding U.D.s	West Riding Admin. County	England and Wales (Provi- sional)
BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 population)	19.1	17.5	17.6	16.9
CRUDE DEATH RATES (per 1,000 population)				
All causes	12.6	12.3	11.6	11.9
Infective and Parasitis Diseases	0.09	—	—	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis	0	0.03	0.03	0.03
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0.09	0.02	0.01	0.01
Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis)	1.25	1.74	1.66	—
Malignant Neoplasms	2.85	2.25	2.14	2.32
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	4.37	4.64	4.34	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	2.05	1.89	1.76	—
INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	14.0	19.7	18.5	18.3
STILLBIRTHS	13.8	14.4	14.3	14.3
PERINATAL MORTALITY	27.6	25.8	25.0	24.7
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Deaths of mothers in child- birth per 1,000 total births)	0	0.09	0.09	0.24

Comparability Factors:

For Births, 1.04.	Adjusted Birth Rate, 19.9.
For Deaths, 0.97.	Adjusted Death Rate, 12.2.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES, 1968 AND MEAN RATES FOR DICENNIAL PERIODS

BIRTH RATE = 19.1

(per 1,000 population)

1901-1910	...	...	27.2	1941-1950	...	...	17.8
1911-1920	...	...	23.0	1951-1960	...	...	15.1
1921-1930	...	...	19.7	1961-1965	...	...	18.1
1931-1940	...	...	15.5				

STILLBIRTHS = 13.8

(per 1,000 total births)

1901-1910	...	...	—	1941-1950	...	...	37.5
1911-1920	...	...	—	1951-1960	...	...	34.1
1921-1930	...	...	38.6	1961-1965	...	...	17.5
1931-1940	...	...	28.0				

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS = 70.1

(per 1,000 total births)

1901-1910	...	...	—	1941-1950	...	...	56.9
1911-1920	...	...	48.4	1951-1960	...	...	27.0
1921-1930	...	...	46.5	1961-1965	...	...	43.9
1931-1940	...	...	38.4				

INFANTILE MORTALITY = 14.0

(per 1,000 live births)

1901-1910	...	...	127.7	1941-1950	...	...	54.0
1911-1920	...	...	97.4	1951-1960	...	...	32.1
1921-1930	...	...	62.9	1961-1965	...	...	17.9
1931-1940	...	...	49.1				

NEONATAL MORTALITY = 14.0

(Deaths in first month per 1,000 live births)

1901-1910	...	...	28.8	1941-1950	...	...	31.1
1911-1920	...	...	38.1	1951-1960	...	...	23.8
1921-1930	...	...	33.4	1961-1965	...	...	12.7
1931-1940	...	...	26.2				

PERINATAL MORTALITY = 27.6

(Stillbirths and first week deaths per 1,000 total births)

1921-1930	...	...	61.1	1951-1960	...	...	54.8
1931-1940	...	...	65.4	1961-1965	...	...	28.7
1941-1950	...	...	58.8				

TOTAL DEATH RATE = 12.6

(per 1,000 population)

1901-1910	...	...	13.7	1941-1950	...	...	13.0
1911-1920	...	...	13.0	1951-1960	...	...	12.9
1921-1930	...	...	11.8	1961-1965	...	...	13.1
1931-1940	...	...	11.7				

DISEASES OF HEART AND CIRCULATION = 4.37

1901-1910	...	...	1.01	1941-1950	...	...	2.73
1911-1920	...	...	1.29	1951-1960	...	...	4.72
1921-1930	...	...	1.53	1961-1965	...	...	5.37
1931-1940	...	...	2.41				

VASCULAR DISEASES OF CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM = 2.05

1901-1910	...	...	—	1941-1950	...	...	1.50
1911-1920	...	...	—	1951-1960	...	...	1.75
1921-1930	...	...	1.24	1961-1965	...	...	1.91
1931-1940	...	...	1.03				

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS = 2.85

1901-1910	...	...	0.91	1941-1950	...	...	2.04
1911-1920	...	...	1.16	1951-1960	...	...	2.17
1921-1930	...	...	1.62	1961-1965	...	...	2.10
1931-1940	...	...	1.73				

RESPIRATORY DISEASES = 1.25

1901-1910	...	...	1.72	1941-1950	...	...	1.80
1911-1920	...	...	1.90	1951-1960	...	...	1.65
1921-1930	...	...	2.56	1961-1965	...	...	1.62
1931-1940	...	...	1.57				

INFECTIVE AND PARASITIC DISEASES = 0.09

1901-1910	...	...	1.53	1941-1950	...	...	0.06
1911-1920	...	...	0.68	1951-1960	...	...	0.04
1921-1930	...	...	0.43	1961-1965	...	...	0.00
1931-1940	...	...	0.24				

RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS = 0

1901-1910	...	...	0.94	1941-1950	...	...	0.32
1911-1920	...	...	0.92	1951-1960	...	...	0.06
1921-1930	...	...	0.72	1961-1965	...	...	0.02
1931-1940	...	...	0.59				

NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS = 0

1901-1910	...	...	0.36	1941-1950	...	...	0.08
1911-1920	...	...	0.44	1951-1960	...	...	0.03
1921-1930	...	...	0.17	1961-1965	...	...	0.00
1931-1940	...	...	0.16				

MATERNAL MORTALITY = 0

(per 1,000 total births)

1901-1910	...	...	5.08	1941-1950	...	...	1.59
1911-1920	...	...	5.02	1951-1960	...	...	0.69
1921-1930	...	...	3.11	1961-1965	...	...	0.00
1931-1940	...	...	3.69				

BIRTHS, 1968

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births.—Legitimate	117	82	199
Illegitimate	7	8	15
	—	—	—
Total	124	90	214
Stillbirths	3	0	3

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1968

	Male	Female	Total
Other tuberculosis	1	0	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	0	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	4	2	6
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	6	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2	2
Other malignant neoplasms	14	4	18
Diabetes mellitus	1	0	1
Other diseases of nervous system ...	1	1	2
Hypertensive disease	2	1	3
Ischæmic heart disease	21	11	32
Other forms of heart disease	2	8	10
Cerebrovascular disease	11	12	23
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	0	4	4
Pneumonia	4	0	4
Bronchitis and emphysema	6	2	8
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	1	1	2
Peptic ulcer	1	1	2
Other diseases genito-urinary system ...	0	1	1
Congenital anomalies	2	0	2
Other causes of perinatal mortality ...	0	1	1
Ill-defined conditions	4	3	7
Motor vehicle accidents	2	0	2
All other accidents	0	3	3
	—	—	—
Total	77	64	141

INFANTILE MORTALITY **Causes of Death in Age Groups**

	Under 1 week	1 to 2 Weeks	2 to 3 Weeks	3 to 4 Weeks	1 to 3 Months	3 to 6 Months	6 to 9 Months	9 to 12 Months	TOTAL
Prematurity	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hæmorrhagic disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital abnormalities	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE **notified during the year 1968**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED							
	At all Ages.	According to Age						
		Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	Over 65
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Food Poisoning ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Scarlet Fever ...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Paratyphoid Fever B	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis, paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" non-paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Encephalitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	199	3	122	71	2	...	1	...
Primary Pneumonia ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Influenzal Pneumonia ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Infective Jaundice ...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	211	3	122	75	2	1	3	5

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases in 1968

					Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				Total	0	0	0

Total Cases on Register

					Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	12	11	23
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				Total	14	13	27

WEST RIDING COUNTY DIVISIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

IN SELBY URBAN DISTRICT, 1968

The Public Health Nursing Staff in this Division no longer works according to County District boundaries. Most of the figures in the following summaries refer to Selby U.D., but in a few cases the figures are those for the Urban and Rural Districts combined or for Division No. 10 as a whole.

1. BIRTHS.

Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	214
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	3
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	15
Males	...	...	...	...	...	124
Females	...	...	...	...	...	90

2. PREMATURE BIRTHS. Babies weighing $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less at birth.

					Living	Stillborn
(i)	Born at home	...	...	...	0	0
(ii)	Born in hospital	...	...	...	12	2
					<hr/>	<hr/>
					12	2

3. HEALTH VISITING (Division No. 10 as a whole).

						First Visits
Expectant Mothers	...	...	...	...	...	166
Children under 1	...	...	...	...	...	872
Children between 1 and 5	...	...	...	...	...	3126
Other cases	...	...	...	...	...	950
						<hr/>
					Total	5114

4. CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.

Total number of children under 5 years of age who first attended the Clinic during the year:

(i)	Born in 1968	...	...	...	...	250
(ii)	Born 1963/67	...	...	...	...	54

Number of Sessions held:

Selby	...	...	...	...	...	50
Total attendance	...	...	...	...	...	4097
Average per session	...	...	...	...	...	82

5. SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

Attendances at Clinic (S.U.D. and S.R.D.)	...	...	127
Number attending Pædiatric Consultant (at Goole)			2
Number attending County Oculist	...	...	209
Number prescribed Spectacles	...	...	46
Number attending Speech Therapy	...	...	0
Number inspected in School by School M.O.	...	...	749
Number inspected in School by School Nurse	...	...	1953
Number of verminous heads	...	...	33
Tests for Subnormality	...	...	1
Re-examinations	...	...	4
Reported to M.D. Authority as ineducable	...	...	0
Recommended for Special Schools	...	...	2
Attending Residential Schools	...	...	3
Reported for care and guidance	...	...	0
Audiometry tests by School Nurse	...	...	355
Audiometry tests by School M.O.	...	...	61

The following defects were found at medical inspections:

					Requiring treatment	For ob- servation
Verminous heads	...	...	...	...	33	—
Skin	...	...	...	...	10	5
Vision	...	...	...	...	90	2
Other eye conditions	...	...	...	...	1	6
Hearing	...	...	...	...	5	6
Other ear defects	...	...	...	...	1	7
Nose and throat	...	...	...	...	3	37
Speech	...	...	...	...	0	9
Cervical glands	...	...	...	...	0	29
Heart and circulation	...	...	...	...	0	4
Lungs	...	...	...	...	1	1
Developmental	...	...	...	...	0	7
Orthopædic	...	...	...	...	3	15
Nervous System	...	...	...	...	2	3
Psychological	...	...	...	...	0	2
Enuresis	...	...	...	...	3	1
Other conditions	...	...	...	...	3	8

6. MATERNITY SERVICES.

Ante-Natal Clinics:

Number of patients attending	...	...	...	...	0
Total number of attendances	...	...	...	...	0
Number of sessions held	...	...	...	...	48

A Mothercraft and Relaxation Exercise Class for expectant mothers is held weekly and 658 attendances were made.

Confined in Hospital:

Leeds Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	3
York Maternity Home	...	...	...	...	...	163
Other Maternity Homes	...	...	...	...	...	2
Total						<hr/> 168

County Midwives:

There were 63 domiciliary confinements in Selby Urban District.

The following summary of the work of the County Midwives is for Division 10 as a whole:—

Number of Midwives	...	...	7
Number of cases	...	...	269
Gas and air analgesia	...	...	0
Trilene analgesia	...	...	228

7. HOME NURSING (Division 10 as a whole).

Number of Nurses	...	...	7
Number of cases completed	...	...	500
Number of visits	...	...	13272

8. HOME HELPS.

Home Helps were employed for 79,424 hours attending cases in the Division.

The following cases were attended in Selby U.D.:—

Maternity	...	...	...	...	6
Chronic Sick (Over 65)	...	...	...	...	31
Chronic Sick (Under 65)	...	...	...	...	4
Others	...	...	...	...	1
Total					<hr/> 42

9. IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Immunised during 1968: Children under 5 years	...	151
Children over 5 years	...	10
		<hr/>
		161
Refresher Dose	... ..	247
		<hr/>
Total		408

Total number of children under 15 years of age who have been immunised up to the 31st December, 1968:

Age—Years	0—1	1—4	5—9	10—14	Total Under 15
Number	48	744	858	612	2262
Percentage ...	97		92		94

10. IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH during 1968.

Under 6 months	...	...	...	...	...	20
6 months to 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	28
1 to 2 years	...	...	...	...	...	102
2 to 3 years	...	...	...	...	...	11
3 to 4 years	...	...	...	...	...	2
						<hr/>
Total						163

11. B.C.G. VACCINATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN (13 years of age).

Number of acceptances in 1968	...	198
Pre-vaccination Tuberculin Tests:		
Positive (not requiring vaccination)	...	40 (18.9%)
Negative (requiring vaccination)	...	172 (81.1%)
Number vaccinated with B.C.G.	...	172

12. VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS.

Total registered, 31st December, 1968	...	...	7764
Vaccinated	...	...	7674

13. MENTAL HEALTH.

Mental Health Act, 1959.

The number of persons under care and guidance at the end of 1968 was as follows:—

	Male	Female	Total
Psychopathic	1	0	1
Mentally ill	10	26	36
Subnormal	11	12	23
Severely Subnormal	1	2	3

Admission to Mental Hospitals by the Mental Welfare Officers during 1968 were as follows:—

	Male	Female	Total
Emergency Admissions	4	3	7
Admission for Observation	0	2	2
Admission for Treatment	0	0	0
Informal Admission	4	12	16

14. MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY, 1968.

The Unit visits Selby twice per month, and 50 examinations were made during 1968.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948-51

No cases were dealt with under the Acts during 1968.

PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION No. 10

The County Districts forming Division No. 10 are:—

Goole Borough (1,267 acres)	Selby Urban (3,883 acres)
Goole Rural (38,238 acres)	Selby Rural (33,304 acres)

Area of the Division	76,692 acres
Population (Estimated mid-1968) ...	47,940
(Census 1961)	44,533

DIVISIONAL HEALTH OFFICE AND STAFF

6/7 Belgravia, Goole. Telephone Goole 4216 & 2923.

Divisional Medical Officer and Divisional School Medical Officer:

S. KENNAUGH APPLETON, S.B.St.J., M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Senior Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer:

MURIEL J. LOWE, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer:

EILEEN M. R. BELL-SYER, M.B., B.S.

School Dental Officer:

P. F. A. ELTOME, L.D.S.

Divisional Nursing Officer:

Miss D. M. E. GOLDTHORPE.

Health Visitors and School Nurses:

Mrs. B. BEAL, Miss D. M. BUTLER, Mrs. M. DODSON, Mrs. O. OGUNWUMIJU, Mrs. A. M. RAWES, Miss A. RIDSDALE, Miss D. M. ROBINSON, Mrs. A. SUTHERLAND (part-time). Assistants: Mrs. M. D. GARDNER, Mrs. J. JARY, Mrs. E. A. ZAPH.

Home Nursing Sisters:

Mrs. H. B. BEAUMONT, Mrs. S. CLAYBOURN, Mrs. M. LUND, Mrs. W. E. DUFFIN, Mrs. S. E. HERRON, Mrs. B. ROSS (part-time), Mrs. J. M. SAWDON, Mrs. E. H. SCOTT-KING.

Domiciliary Midwives:

Miss I. CAMPBELL, Miss E. CLAYTON, Miss H. ELLIS, Mrs. D. FRANKLIN, Mrs. A. G. HORSFIELD, Miss E. D. LAKING, Miss M. P. SMITH.

Mental Health Officers:

Mr. T. G. FOSTER, Miss M. J. HURLEY.

Rawcliffe Training Centre (Rawcliffe 387):

Supervisor: Miss C. S. LOGAN. Staff: Mrs. A. ALVEY, Mr. J. BEAMSON, Mrs. E. GOODALL, Mr. R. C. HUNT, Mrs. J. ELLIS, Mrs. A. W. JARVILL, Mrs. E. ROSE.

Snaith Day Centre:

Instructors: Mr. G. H. PURCHON, Mrs. R. H. KERSHAW.

Speech Therapy: Vacant.

Welfare Officer: Mr. D. HIRST.

Clerical:

Senior Clerk: Mr. R. TOWELL. Deputy Senior Clerk: Mr. G. N. NOWILL. Mrs. N. ALMOND, Miss S. L. BRAMHAM, Mrs. M. E. BRYARS (part-time), Mr. J. LAWTON, Miss S. H. MILEHAM, Mrs. J. MILES, Mrs. M. READSHAW (part-time), Mrs. J. E. TAYLOR.

CLINICS

(30.6.69)

The following Child Welfare, Maternity, School Health Services and Specialists' Clinics are held in the County Clinic, Raincliffe Street, Selby.

Monday 10-12: School Clinic	...	Dr. E. M. R. Bell-Syer. Miss A. Ridsdale. Mrs. A. M. Rawes.
-----------------------------	-----	---

Monday 10-12 and 2-4: Speech Therapy		Temporarily suspended.
---	--	------------------------

Monday 2-4: Ante-Natal Clinic and Cervical Cytology 10-4: Child Guidance Clinic		Dr. E. M. R. Bell-Syer. Miss A. Ridsdale. Mrs. A. M. Rawes. Mrs. A. Sutherland.
---	--	--

Thursday 2-4: Relaxation and Mothercraft		Midwives.
---	--	-----------

Friday 10-12: Minor Ailments	...	Miss A. Ridsdale.
------------------------------	-----	-------------------

Friday 2-4: Child Welfare	...	Dr. E. M. R. Bell-Syer. Miss A. Ridsdale. Mrs. A. M. Rawes. Mrs. A. Sutherland.
---------------------------	-----	--

A Training Centre for the training of severely subnormal children and adults is situated at Rawcliffe.

Dr. L. Wittels holds eye-testing session three times a month either at Goole or Selby.

The Children's Specialist has sessions in Goole on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, which are available to the children of Selby.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, 1968.

To The Chairman and Members of the Selby Urban District Council.
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to present my third Annual Report on the Environmental Health in the Selby Urban District for the year ending December, 1968.

No major legislation was enacted during the year affecting the public health apart from the Caravan Sites Act, 1968, and the Clean Air Act, 1968. This latter Act, however, was not brought into force during the year. The Countryside Act, 1968, which gives local authorities additional powers over parks, recreation and camping sites and access to the countryside will, no doubt, when fully in operation, provide additional healthful facilities for the public.

The Government's White Paper on Housing, "Old Houses into New Homes," provided an idea of the government's proposals which were to become the basis of legislation in 1969. New Imported Food Regulations laid additional responsibilities on inland local authorities in the inspection of food imported from abroad.

PART I — ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE.

(a) Water Supply.

A supply of mains water is available throughout the district from the Pontefract, Goole and Selby Water Board. No complaints were received of any inadequate or unsatisfactory supply, and eight samples taken from taps in various parts of the district and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination were reported as satisfactory.

No action had to be taken under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, to obtain a satisfactory piped supply to any dwelling.

(b) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Stage one of the Selby Sewerage Scheme was completed and the new sewage disposal works were officially opened by the Chairman of the Council. This stage provides for sewage disposal works for partial treatment, together with relay pumping stations, main pumping sewer and outfall sewer.

It was hoped that it would be possible to proceed with stage 2 of the scheme, but the Ministry of Housing and Local Government felt that in view of the length of time which had elapsed since the investigation was held into the proposals for the Selby Sewerage Scheme it was necessary to hold a further investigation into the proposals for stage 2 of the scheme.

This local investigation was held on the 10th October, 1968, and on the 8th November a letter was received from the Ministry stating that, following the local investigation, the Department accepted that there was a need for the proposed works to serve existing and future developments and to eliminate existing public health risks, and agreed that despite current restrictions on capital expenditure loan consent to cover the cost would be given in due course.

This stage will deal with the Leeds Road-Doncaster Road-Flaxley Road areas and Brayton, and also allow for future development in the district.

(c) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

This service is under the direction of the Council's Engineer and Surveyor (H. E. Phillips, Esq., C.Eng., M.I.Mun.Eng.), and a weekly collection of house refuse is made. Trade refuse is collected from shops and other business premises.

Disposal of refuse is by tipping at the Bondgate refuse tip. Owing to the sudden hot weather in May a serious fly infestation developed, which was the cause of numerous complaints, particularly from the new residential development on Monk Lane-Wistow Road area. Preventive hand spraying was carried out, but as this proved to be inadequate the Council authorised a complete treatment by a specialist pest destruction firm. Spraying was maintained following this treatment at weekly intervals throughout the summer, and in the autumn a comprehensive contract on pest control was negotiated with the same firm, who undertook, as part of the contract, the treatment of the tip for flies and rodents.

At the request of the Council the Surveyor prepared a comprehensive report on future arrangements for the disposal of refuse in view of the fact that the life of the Bondgate tip was limited. At a special meeting of the Council in November it was decided that as an alternative, or an addition, to tipping at Bondgate, Selby Rural District Council be asked whether they would be prepared to make available to the Urban District Council facilities at their existing tip in Gateforth New Road, and that the whole question be reconsidered following publication of the findings of the West Yorkshire Transportation Study and the Report of the Royal Commission on Local Government.

(d) Swimming Bath.

A covered, heated pool is provided by the Council, and provides facilities for adult bathing, children's bathing and slipper baths during the spring, summer and early autumn. Water is supplied from the mains and subject to continuous filtration and chlorination.

Samples of water were taken at regular intervals throughout the swimming season and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. A total of 44 samples were examined in eleven groups.

No coliform bacilli or Bact. Coli (Type 1) were isolated from any sample, and 31 samples (70%) showed a plate count of nil. A plate count of less than 10 colonies was recorded in 39 of the 44 samples (89%).

The recommended standards are that no sample from a bath should contain any coliform organisms, and that in 75% of the samples examined the Plate Count should not exceed 10 colonies and the remainder should not exceed 100 colonies. It will be seen, therefore, that a high standard of bacterial purity has been maintained and the Council's action in providing a new chlorinator fully justified.

(e) Nuisances and General Sanitation.

A total of 78 complaints were received and investigated during the year; 22 of these were of housing and drainage defects and all but 3 of these were remedied informally. Of the three nuisance notices served, two had been complied with by the year end and one partially complied with.

Many complaints were received during the warm, wet periods of the summer months of ant infestations, and advice and insecticides were issued to householders in the town.

Notice was served on one estate developer to pipe in a water-course on the boundary of his development, as this had been a cause of nuisance in the past from mosquitoes and the deposit of rubbish.

Other complaints investigated included dust and smell nuisances from the unloading of cargoes on the river, accumulations of ashes and rubbish, overgrown and neglected gardens, moles in lawns and worn-out dustbins.

It will be seen that the investigation of nuisances still occupies some part of your Inspector's time, as it has done for well over one hundred years.

I regret that it has still not been possible to effect any improvement in the condition of derelict and dilapidated property to the rear of Finkle Street, which I reported on in my last annual report, but investigations as to ownership were continuing at the end of the year and it is hoped that some progress will be made in clearing up some derelict areas in 1969.

Regular visits have been paid to the factory dealing with the cleansing and bleaching of rags and, where these are to be exported, a certificate has been issued that the process has been satisfactorily

carried out. The number of certificates issued in 1968 was 24, for which the company paid the Council fees of £15.

(f) Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

The number of complaints fell and only two were received during the year; both related to domestic property. In the first case the complaint was made by a householder that her neighbour made tapping noises during the night, and in the second the householder complained that her neighbour had installed partial central heating, and the boiling of water in the newly-fitted high-output back boiler made a nuisance in the adjoining house.

Although several visits were made to each complainant, neither complaint could be confirmed, and it was felt that these complaints were only part of neighbour quarrels. It was suggested that both complainants may be better tackled privately by the persons concerned. In the meantime the first lady left the house and nothing further was heard from the new tenant.

In November the Council agreed to send the Public Health Inspector on a three-day course to the Hull College of Technology to receive information and instruction in all the new aspects of noise control.

(g) Laboratory Facilities.

The bacteriological examination of samples of water, swimming bath water and ice-cream was carried out by the staff of the Public Health Laboratory at Wakefield, and I would again like to thank the Director and his staff for their help and expert advice.

(h) Public Conveniences.

Males and females conveniences are provided at Park Street, Scott Road, Water Lane and Shipyard Road. The Park Street conveniences have been in existence for over fifty years and are becoming difficult to maintain and clean, and, as a result, cause complaints, particularly from visitors during the summer months.

Two reports were submitted by the Surveyor to the Council during the year, and it was agreed that improvements to washing facilities be carried out to the existing conveniences, that the use of coin operated locks be discontinued, and that plans be prepared for new public conveniences to be sited near Station Road.

PART II — FOOD INSPECTION AND FOOD HYGIENE.

(a) Slaughterhouse and Meat Inspection.

One private slaughterhouse was licensed during the year. Slaughtering was carried out during the early months of the year but the slaughterhouse was not used for several months.

A total of 53 animals were killed, being 51 cattle, 1 pig and 1 sheep. Of the 51 cattle only 5 had some part or organ rejected as unfit. This was in each case the liver, due to abscesses or fasciolasis, and gave a total of 9.8% of the beasts killed.

The slaughterhouse was maintained in an excellent condition at all times.

(b) Foods other than Meat.

Food is inspected at wholesale warehouses, supermarkets and retail food shops to ensure that a sound, hygienic article is offered for sale.

A major amendment to the inspection of imported food from overseas was made by the Imported Food Regulations, 1968. Previously this food had been examined at the port of entry, but with the increasing use of containers which are sent unopened to the ultimate destination inland, the onus of food inspection in these cases is now placed on the food inspector at the final point. Selby receives a considerable number of refrigerated bacon containers, and these are now examined in Selby on opening instead of at Grimsby where the food is imported from Denmark.

The import of bacon in these refrigerated containers, in which the bacon is kept at a constant temperature for the whole of its journey, is a vast improvement on the older method of transporting bacon wrapped in hessian or cloth coverings.

The total quantity of food inspected and rejected as unfit at wholesale warehouses, food shops, catering establishments was 3 tons 14 cwt. 39 lbs. This quantity of unfit food has risen slowly over the last few years from just over a ton in 1963.

(c) Foreign Matter in Food.

Five complaints were investigated during 1968, the same as in 1967. These were:

Complaints.	Action taken.
1. Piece of metal baked into a loaf of bread.	Referred to W.R.C.C. who sent warning letter to bakers.
2. Unfit can of luncheon meat.	Warning letter to retailers.
3. Unfit can of prawns.	Warning letter to retailers.
4. Unpleasant taste in can of creamed rice.	Examined by Leeds City Analyst informally but complaints not confirmed.
5. Plastic strip in packet of potato crisps.	Warning letter to manufacturers.

No prosecutions were instituted in respect of these offences.

(d) Food Hygiene.

Regular inspections were maintained of all premises where food is prepared, stored or sold, and it was necessary to issue written notices in thirteen cases.

The present unsatisfactory position whereby any person may open a food shop without any reference to the Health Department appears odd when, for example, one cannot sell a white mouse or guinea-pig without first obtaining a licence. During 1968 a shop in the centre of the town which had no previous record of food sales suddenly opened up for the sale of foodstuffs. When inspected it was found to have no water supply, no washing facilities, no sink, in fact none of the facilities required by the Food Hygiene Regulations. In fairness to the lady in charge one must state that it was kept clean, but with much difficulty and inconvenience. Written notice under the Regulations was immediately sent, but owing to difficulties with contractors the necessary work had not been completed by the year end.

No one wishes to add to the proliferation of licences and restrictions common today, but it would seem to me to be a simple expedient to extend the present requirement that certain food premises be registered (i.e. ice-cream, sausage and meat products) to all premises where food is handled, prepared or sold.

As the opportunity occurred during the year a visit was paid to the public houses in the town and a letter detailing defects sent to the owners in respect of 12 of the 27 premises. In three cases major improvement schemes had been put in hand by the Breweries concerned, and others are envisaged, and in the meantime a good deal of the work listed had been attended to.

Nine premises are registered for the manufacture of sausages and meat products, and I am pleased to be able to report that one more has been completely modernised and brought up to date by the owner.

The total number of visits paid to food premises of all kinds was 203.

The following table shows the type and number of food premises together with facilities available.

Type of Business	No.	No. of premises with wash-hand basins	No. of premises requiring facilities for washing food	No. of premises having facilities for washing food
Retail Butchers	21	21	21	21
Bacon and Ham Processing ...	2	2	2	2
Slaughterhouses	1	1	1	1
Wholesale Meat Products ...	1	1	1	1
Bakehouses	7	7	7	7
Bread & Confectionery Sales	4	4	3	3
Hotels, Cafes and Snack Bars	11	11	11	11
Fried Fish Shops	10	10	10	10
Wet Fish Shops	1	1	1	1
Food Supermarkets	4	4	4	4
Grocery and Provisions ...	34	34	29	31
Greengrocers	12	12	12	12
Licensed Houses	27	27	27	27
Sweet Confectionery ...	17	17	8	10
School Canteens	4	4	4	4
Industrial Canteens	5	5	5	5
Total ...	161	161	146	150

Following receipt of Ministry of Health Circular 25/68, the Council agreed to provide all food premises with a suitable notice requesting customers to keep dogs outside such establishments. Many shop keepers expressed their thanks for providing them with this material for display.

(e) Ice Cream.

The number of premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of ice cream increased by one to a total of 44. No ice cream is manufactured in the district. All ice cream sold is pre-packed.

During the summer months 8 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and reported as grade one.

(f) Market Stalls and Vehicles.

The number of market stalls and mobile vehicles selling food was 17, made up of 8 fruit and vegetable, 2 ice cream, 2 wet fish, 1 fried fish and chips, 1 bacon, 1 eggs and 2 sweets.

A total of 103 inspections were made during the year to ensure that the Regulations were complied with. This included 12 vehicles selling food on the various housing estates.

(g) Milk.

The main suppliers of milk in the district are dairies situated at York and Leeds. Six samples of heat treated milk were taken by the West Riding County Sampling Officer within the Urban District and all passed the methylene blue and phosphatase tests.

PART III — HOUSING.

(a) General Conditions.

It is with some regret that one cannot record any progress in the completion of Council houses during the year after the progress made in 1967 with the completion of the D'Arcy Road bungalows. The Council's agreed plans for the development of forty-four dwellings on the Cockrett Lane site could not be implemented owing to the delay in obtaining approval to phase two of the Selby Sewerage scheme. As reported earlier, the Ministry approval for this was received towards the end of the year, and it is hoped that housing development will be resumed as soon as sewerage facilities are available.

Some rehousing of families from unfit property was, however, carried out through normal Council house re-lets, and 6 properties were dealt with as a result. Eight orders were made under the provisions of Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957, as follows:—

Nos. 3, 4 & 5 Adams Square, Gowthorpe	Demolition Orders.
Nos. 4, 5, 6 & 7 The Nook, Selby	... Demolition Orders.
No. 5 Thornden Buildings, New Street	Closing Order.

Of the 52 houses included in the Council's present list of unfit houses compiled in 1966, 11 have been made subject to Orders under the Housing Act and 6 have become empty and the owners have agreed not to re-let them. This left, at the end of the year, a further 35 to be dealt with, of which 13 require rehousing as soon as possible.

No notices to carry out repair were served under the provisions of the Housing Act, but 7 informal notices and 3 statutory notices were served under the nuisance abatement provisions of the Public Health Act. At the end of the year all the informal notices and two of the statutory notices had been complied with.

No application for Certificates of Disrepair were received.

The number of houses known to be in occupation by more than one family remained the same at 12, and repairs were requested at one of these houses to abate dampness in two rooms. At another,

occupied by single men, washing facilities were considered inadequate, but the provision of additional facilities was being undertaken by the owner.

**(b) Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.
Caravan Sites Act, 1968.**

A total of three licences are in force for caravan sites. These are situated at Millgate, Bondgate and Flaxley Road. Further improvements were made at the Flaxley Road site with the provision of flush toilets for men and women and further site works. The owner of this site requested an extension of time to comply with the conditions attached to this licence and the Council agreed to an extension of a further two years.

In December a meeting was held with officials of the West Riding County Council, Goole Borough Council, Goole and Selby Rural Councils and Selby Urban Council, for informal discussions of the Caravan Sites Act, 1968, with reference to the provisions of a site in this part of the county area for gypsies and other travellers.

It was stated, on behalf of the Selby Urban Council, that no problem was caused by itinerant van dwellers within the district. In fact, in 1968, only two vans were reported for a stay of two or three days. The general feeling of the other local authorities present was that no problem existed at the moment and there did not seem to be any need for the selection of a provisional site at this time.

PART IV — INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ENVIRONMENT.

(a) Air Pollution Control.

No notices of contraventions of the provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956, relating to the emission of dark smoke, were served, and only two complaints of smoke nuisance were received during the year. One referred to a factory near a new housing development, and this was due to a temporary fault which was remedied over the weekend. The other complaint referred to smoke from a domestic boiler at a public house burning bituminous fuel. The occupier here agreed to change to smokeless fuel, and no further complaints were received.

Complaints of a somewhat different nature were received when two cargoes, one of fish meal and another of fine sand, were being unloaded at one of the wharves. As a result of visits the wharfingers concerned agreed to exercise more care on the nature of cargoes discharged, and no further nuisance was committed.

No official action was taken as to domestic smoke control.

The Clean Air Act, 1968, which amends and adds to the provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956, had not been brought into operation at the year end, but some provisions will come into operation in 1969.

(b) Factories Act, 1961.

The number of factories on the register at the end of 1968 was 70. All were factories with power, and the duty of the local authority is to ensure that satisfactory and sufficient sanitary accommodation is available for the employees. Two persons were notified as outworkers and both homes were satisfactory for the type of work carried out.

Eighteen factories were inspected, three of these as a result of unsatisfactory conditions noted by H.M. District Inspector of Factories, and all these were put into a satisfactory condition without the service of notice or institution of legal proceedings. Eight other premises in which Section 7 of the Act is enforced by the local authority were visited. (These included the slaughterhouse and works of building or civil engineering).

The following tables show details of inspections and action taken:

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	0	0	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority ...	70	18	3	0
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excl. out-workers premises)	8	8	0	0
Total ...	78	26	3	0

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases prosecutions instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	3	3	0	3	0
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	0	0	0	0	0
Total ...	3	3	0	3	0

Outwork.

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in Aug. list required by Sec. 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel— Making, etc. ...	2	0	0	0	0	0

(c) Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Visits were paid to premises throughout the year to follow up work which had been requested in the previous year, and good progress was made in bringing shops and offices which were below standard to the requirement of the Act.

The total number of premises registered under the provisions of the Act at the end of 1968 was 193. This total figure was made up of 49 offices, 125 retail shops, 6 warehouses and 13 catering establishments. A further 70 general inspections were carried out and 55 other visits were made for various purposes of the Act.

Accidents reported during the year numbered four, none of which were fatal. One was notified from an office, two from retail shops and one from a licensed catering establishment. All these accidents were investigated and the occupiers of the various premises advised as to precautions to take or work to be carried out to minimise the risk of future accidents. Two of the accidents

were as a result of falls, one occurred while handling goods, and one was as a result of being struck by a falling object.

Exemption from certain provisions of the Act, with respect to overcrowding, sanitary conveniences and heating, were extended in the case of one retail shop. No other exemptions are in force.

PART V — PEST CONTROL.

(a) **Rats and Mice.**

The eradication of these pests was carried out by one Rodent Operator/Handyman up to the middle of June, when he left the service of the Council. During the summer months work was carried out with help from the Surveyor's Department, and in October the Council agreed to a contract with a commercial pest destruction firm to undertake the whole of the Council's pest control services. This appears to be working well and all complaints quickly dealt with. The contract includes a bi-annual treatment of the town centre and Stainer Wood estate sewers, and will be extended to include the rest of the sewers when the next phase of the sewerage system is completed. The treatment of domestic premises is carried out free of charge to the occupier, but treatments of commercial premises is rechargeable.

The following table gives details of the work undertaken:—

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district ...	4742	37
2. (a) Total number of properties (incl. nearby premises) inspected following notification	74	1
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats ...	51	1
(ii) Mice ...	23	—
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	29	5
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats ...	22	5
(ii) Mice ...	—	—

(b) Other Pests.

Very little trouble has been experienced in dealing with insect pests, and, apart from a considerable number of complaints of ants in the warmer months, the only other infestations dealt with

have been two of cockroaches, one of silver fish and one of furniture mites. During the warm period of May help was given to a number of shops which were troubled with a large number of house flies.

The wide range of modern insecticides soon brings even the most stubborn of infestations under control. Although ant infestations are not of public health significance they can be very unsettling, particularly for the older members of the community, and help with advice and materials was appreciated in dealing with this pest.

PART VI — COUNCIL HOUSE ADMINISTRATION.

The allocation of Council houses and bungalows continued to be carried out with a Sub-Committee of the Housing Committee and the Public Health Inspector. As no new housing development became available during the year the only allocations made were of re-lets of existing houses. The number of units of accommodation owned by the Council was 1,274.

The House Letting Sub-Committee met on 18 occasions and allocated 20 exchanges of tenacy and 27 new tenancies. In addition a further 16 exchanges of tenancy were mutually arranged both within and outside the Urban District. In two instances exchanges of families from two-bedroom to three-bedroom houses resulted in abatement of overcrowding. The number of dwellings re-let were:—

- 6 One bedroom bungalows,
- 2 Two-bedroom houses,
- 18 Three-bedroom houses, and
- 1 Five-bedroom house.

All applicants for exchanges and new tenants were visited by the Public Health Inspector before the exchange of tenacy was allowed.

One Council house was visited at regular intervals by the Public Health Inspector and Sub-Committee in an effort to improve the conditions, but otherwise very few visits were necessary to houses which were not being maintained in a satisfactory state.

The "Wardens for Elderly Persons" schemes continued in a satisfactory manner, but the extension of these schemes was not possible as the West Riding County Council had to restrict the development of new schemes owing to the general economic conditions prevailing. The Council again considered, at special meetings, the provision of grouped dwellings for the elderly, but decided that the time was not opportune for such a project. The provision of grouped dwellings with communal facilities is, however, an established pattern in many parts of the country, and the advantages of

such accommodation for elderly persons, where they can have either the privacy of their own home or companionship with their contemporaries under the kindly care of a resident warden, is appreciated wherever such schemes have been accepted. In addition, there is a considerable benefit to the community in that many old people continue to lead an individual life with only the necessary limited supervision, instead of becoming occupants of Welfare Homes at a greatly increased social cost. One hopes that when there is a lightening of the present dark economic landscape the Council will again give consideration to the provision of such accommodation, as I am sure it could make a significant contribution to the well-being of many of the senior citizens of the town.

One new and worthwhile housing project embarked on by the Council in 1968 was the provision of the first house specially designed for a disabled person and his family. The need of this case was carefully considered, and it was decided to purchase a house under construction on one of the private estate developments to the south of the town centre and, with the help and financial assistance of the County Council's Welfare and Architect's Department, make the necessary alterations to fit it for the use of a person confined to a wheelchair. In addition, garage space was allowed for so that use could be had of a mechanically-propelled invalid chair as supplied by the Department of Health and Social Security. The dwelling was nearing completion by the end of the year and it was hoped that the new tenant would be able to take possession early in the New Year.

Under the direction of the Council's Surveyor and Engineer the improvement of the Powell Street houses was completed, and the Council agreed in principle to the continuation of the policy of improving the older type house by the provision of a bathroom in the third bedroom.

.

This report attempts to give a summary of the work carried out in the Selby U.D. Health Department and the routine work undertaken to maintain and, if possible, improve the hygienic environment of the community.

A good deal of public health work which would further add to the service cannot be undertaken with the present staff of one Public Health Inspector and one female clerk/typist. A request, for example, by one of the food factories for lectures to the staff on food hygiene could not be undertaken, and food hygiene education generally is a duty which is neglected, as all the time which can be allocated to food hygiene has to be spent on maintaining reasonable routine inspections to the 160 food premises.

Similarly, when the question of the improvement of sub-standard private houses was raised in Committee and the Improvement Areas legislation discussed, it was not possible to undertake the routine house-to-house visiting which such a scheme requires. Again, it is not possible to inspect all the food containers entering the district under the new Imported Food Regulations, and it is fortunate that the only foodstuffs received so far are of a high quality and a product of international fame.

With further Housing legislation pending and the possibility of additional duties under Factories, Offices and Shops Act likely, the Council may have to give consideration to these duties and the staffing of its Health Department in order to maintain the present service to the people of Selby.

I would like to pay my tribute to the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Appleton, for his kind help and advice, and also the other Chief Officers of the Council. I record my appreciation for the consideration and active support of the Chairman and Members of the Council in all aspects of the work of the department. Miss Jackson quickly settled down to her new duties, and her friendly and efficient manner has been appreciated by the many members of the public who come to her counter daily for help, advice and assistance.

I remain, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

N. BUCKLE,

March, 1969.

Public Health Inspector.

